

Local Board to Oppose Unruh School Bill

Mayor Blasts Critical Report

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Every Sunday and Thursday

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Torrance Herald

**Torrance Gets
Major Playoff**
(See Sports Section)

31st Year — No. 19

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POLICE SHAKEUP UNDER WAY

**A Penny
for
your
Thoughts**

The Pennies photographer asked five girls at Bishop Montgomery High School, "What is the most important problem which you are now facing?"

Laraine Luthringer, 2351 W. 247th St.
"Basically, my biggest problem is college. I will probably go to El Camino College for two years, but my problem is trying to decide if I will major in history or psychology and plan to become a psychologist."

Nancy Farnaus, 15119 Font-hill, Lawndale:
"My biggest problem is a chemistry entrance exam which I have to take in order to be admitted to El Camino. The problem is that I had chemistry last year, and I have to take the exam right now."

Loretta Gronke, 2406 W. 179th St.
"My problem is getting good grades in school and then keeping them so I can graduate in June. I have settled down to studying, but it is a lot of work and you have to really push yourself to get it all done."

Karen Giaquinto, 2228 Gramercy Ave.
"I really have no personal problems right now, but I do have a problem with my brother. I have been trying to get him to come to Bishop Montgomery next year. My parents are helping, so maybe I will win."

Cheryl Kelly, Manhattan Beach:
"I really don't have a personal problem — just trying to decide between going to work or going to college after I graduate in June. If I go to college, I want to major in cosmetology, but right now I am inclined to go to work."

Isen Claims He's Picked As 'Fall Guy'

"You can tell them Albert Isen doesn't intend to be the fall guy in this matter," Mayor Isen told newsmen at his office yesterday.

Commenting on an attorney general's report which blistered him, Police Chief Percy G. Bennett, and ranking police officers, the mayor lashed out at the report, saying it was "tinged with malice and political implications." The report was delivered to the city late Tuesday.

"Here we have a kangaroo court in which the investigator also is judge and jury," Isen said.

He was obviously upset with the 31-page report prepared by Deputy Atty. Gen. Jack Goertzen and his assistant, David Rothman, with the help of Dep. Dist. Atty. Richard Caballero.

"WE GO THROUGH eight months of this kind of persecution and they can't come up with a thing," Isen said. "We don't need Sacramento nor the District Attorney's office to run this town, he added. He described the investigation and the reports a threat to home rule.

Principal target of the report—directed at the operation of the police department—was Chief Percy Bennett, whose retirement will become effective in another 10 days.

Investigators said they found an "almost complete absence of leadership" in the department, and charged that Bennett worked only three or four hours an average working day.

GOERTZEN and his aides also criticized several procedural practices on the manner of investigations, keeping of evidence in criminal cases, and on the departmental investigation of alleged brutality cases involving the chief's son and another officer.

Mayor Isen was named in the report when Bennett and other officers testified that Isen had been taken home by police officers. Bennett said it had come to his attention "half a dozen times" that Isen had "been transported home from bars in an intoxicated condition by Torrance police officers on duty."

THE REPORT recommended that a number of changes be (Continued on Page 4)

Resolution Asks 'Strong Opposition'

Trustees of the Torrance Unified School District unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the Unruh Bill at their meeting Monday evening.

The resolution, directed to State Senator Thomas Rees and Assemblymen Clayton Dills, Charles Chapel, and Vincent Thomas, urges "strong opposition" to the bill, which would reduce the number of school districts in California to 170.

Board President Bert M. Lynn, who voted to adopt the resolution, told board members he had never received so much literature from the California School Board Assn. "He (Unruh) has done some good," Lynn said, "he got the California School Boards Assn. off their you-know-what. If he can do this, he a genius."

IN VOTING to adopt the resolution, board members made only one change. Dr. Kurt Shery objected to a phrase "respectfully beg" and it was changed when Shery told the board, "We don't have to beg anyone, especially the people elected to represent us."

The Unruh Bill, known as Assembly Bill 46, would combine most of the state school districts into county districts and reduce the number from some 1,600 districts to 170.

Charter cities would be exempt from the provisions of the bill. It would effectively use the county-wide tax which Governor Edmund Brown has recommended.

THE RESOLUTION cites a number of reasons for leaving the school districts as they are. Recalling that Torrance established its own district because of ineffective local control, the resolution asserts local control would be destroyed.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, said the bill (Continued on Page 4)

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BUILDING SPREE . . . Scenes like this have been repeated many times over already in 1964 as Torrance builders begin what could be one of Torrance's biggest construction years. With January and February building permit totals reaching new peaks, the construction which already has been announced could make this year a banner one for the city. (Herald Photo)

City's Building Activity Shows Big February Jump

Building permits worth nearly \$5.3 million were issued by the city in February as construction activity recovered from a slow start during January.

A total of 292 permits were issued, the bulk of which were for new homes and apartments. A total of 144 new homes and 150 new apartments will be built.

The largest single permit, issued to Kara Construction Co., provides for 30 new homes with attached garages on Eriel Avenue. The permit was valued at \$754,195. Mollette Land Co., which will build 24 new homes at the 20400 block of Reynolds Drive, got the second largest permit, worth \$641,080.

THE ONLY significant non-residential permit was taken out by R. G. Harris Co., which plans an office and warehouse at 2917 Lomita Blvd. The permit was valued at \$162,610.

Thirty-eight permits accounted for more than 60 per cent of the construction started during the month. The 38 permits, valued at \$3,677,660, provide for 144 single-family homes.

Four more permits, worth \$998,670, were issued for jobs aimed at providing 150 apartment units in the city.

CONSTRUCTION activity for the month, normally slow because of weather, was the highest on record, according to a

Bullock's May Reveal Plan For Torrance Store Today

Representatives of Bullock's Inc. are expected to announce today the acquisition of a large commercial site at the northeast corner of Carson Street and Hawthorne Avenue to construct a new department store in the Del Amo Shopping Center area.

A meeting with representatives of the major retail store has been called for 2:30 this afternoon near the site.

Among those scheduled to be present is Mahlon E. Arnett, executive vice president of Bullock's.

The HERALD first disclosed that Bullock's may construct a Torrance store in its year-end roundup published here on Dec. 29. Other area newspapers subsequently carried the story.

The HERALD has been told that the retail firm has land fronting on Hawthorne Avenue and Carson Street, and extending eastward from Hawthorne Avenue to a point nearly half way to the railroad lines paralleling Madrona Avenue.

Several Top Aides Given New Shifts

Shifting of several top aides in the Torrance Police Department was announced yesterday afternoon by Assistant Chief M. H. Porter and Acting City Manager Edward W. Ferraro. Effective date of the changes was announced as Friday, March 6.

Porter stressed that the transfers were not being made for disciplinary reasons but to increase effectiveness of the department. The shifts:

LT. D. C. Cook was relieved as head of the administrative vice detail and assigned to the department's patrol division. He will report to Capt. John Maestri.

LT. DONALD Hamilton was relieved as commander of the detective bureau and assigned to patrol. He will report to Maestri.

Officer Leo Gonzales was relieved of assignment to the vice detail and assigned to the patrol division.

LT. Joe Miles has been taken from patrol division and assigned as commander of the detective bureau. He will report to Assistant Chief Porter.

LT. H. M. (Mickey) Fischer was named to head the administrative vice detail and will report directly to Porter.

Henry Puppoff will be assigned to the vice detail to replace Gonzales, according to Porter's announcement.

PORTER ordered the changes in his position as assistant police chief, according to Ferraro. He was enabled to do so through provisions of the city regulations which say he will have the power to operate in the absence of the chief of police.

Chief Percy G. Bennett, scheduled to retire effective March 16, is now on terminal leave and is not expected to return to his desk.

FERRARO TOLD newsmen yesterday afternoon that the report issued by the attorney general's deputies would be reviewed relative to recommended administrative changes or discipline of individuals will be taken before the Civil Service Board and will not be discussed publicly in advance, Ferraro said.

Action Delayed On EOC

Action on a recommendation by Acting City Manager Ed Ferraro that plans for the city's Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and police department needs. He said more than 10,000 square feet of useable space can be added to the police facility by adding \$28,000 to the city's share of the cost of the EOC.

Ferraro told The HERALD his recommendation was made after a study of the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and police department needs. He said more than 10,000 square feet of useable space can be added to the police facility by adding \$28,000 to the city's share of the cost of the EOC.

"THERE ARE people literally sitting on top of each other in the police department," Ferraro said.

Ferraro added the difference in cost is because of higher construction standards required in the EOC facility. The center, designed to house central communications for the city and to double as a civil defense headquarters, must be constructed to withstand blast pressures and must be able to operate for two weeks as a self-sustaining unit.

Plans and specifications for EOC are ready to be advertised for bids, according to O. P. Johnson, assistant city manager, who has been working on the project for more than two years.

There was no indication when the plan would be given back to the council, although several councilmen expressed hope that the matter could be settled within a week or two.

Herald to Note 50th Year Here

Plans are progressing rapidly for The HERALD's "Golden Anniversary Edition" to be published early in May, Publisher Glenn W. Pfeil has disclosed.

The special edition of The HERALD, commemorating its 50th year of service to this community, will review the growth and progress of the great city of Torrance, Publisher Pfeil said.

Widespread interest has been developed among the leading Torrance and area industries and other organizations who want to be represented in the publication marking a half-century of service.

Persons or firms wanting to join the comprehensive report on the growth of Torrance from a sleepy industrial town to a metropolis are asked to contact John Staeger at The HERALD at an early date. Deadlines for the publication are moving up on us, Publisher Pfeil warned.

Tentative entertainment plans of songs, poems, and skits are scheduled for youth groups at El Nido, La Romeria, Los Arboles, Paradise, Torrance and Walteria parks.